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UNCLAS MASERU 000327

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

FOR AF/S

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SUBJECT: LESOTHO'S POSITION ON THE AFRICAN UNION AND UN REFORM

REF: (A) STATE 119897 (B) MASERU 311 (NOTAL)

1. (SBU) Ambassador delivered Ref (A) points concerning UN Security Council Reform with Lesotho's Minister of Foreign Affairs June 29. MFA stated the GOL was very comfortable with the U.S. position and stated they particularly recognized the approach the U.S. was taking in regards to establishing criteria for new permanent members and also appreciated our consideration of supporting 2 or 3 additional non-permanent seats. Concerning a final African position, the Minister indicated that the GOL would not reach one until after full discussion during the AU Summit; he thought there would be a common African position at that time. He added that for the present, his government was supporting Option 1 as considered by African states, namely, to have 2 nations on the UNSC. Regarding the G-4 position, the GOL wished to study that further and advised that, to their knowledge, only one African state (reportedly Madagascar) had, to date, come out in favor of the G-4 position. MFA thought 7 or 8 African countries would be competing for Security Council seats.

2. (SBU) Based on today's discussion and previous Ref (B) notal, we expect no firm statements right away. It appears final, fully vetted positions will await conclusion of the AU Summit.

PERRY